

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of HOLMAN

Application No.

Examiner:

Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit:

For: DISPOSABLE SCALPEL WITH RETRACTABLE BLADE

**CLAIM OF FOREIGN PRIORITY AND SUBMISSION OF CERTIFIED COPY OF
FOREIGN PRIORITY APPLICATION**


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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Priority under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and under 35 U.S.C. §119 is hereby claimed for the above-identified patent application, based upon South African Application No. 2002/9334, filed November 18, 2002, and upon South African Application No. 2003/5355, filed July 11, 2003. A certified copy of each of the priority applications are submitted herewith, which perfects the claim to foreign priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-5-03



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Docket No. 9650-4

{WP148335;1}

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Sertifikaat

PATENTKANTOOR
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL
EN NYWERHEID



Certificate

PATENT OFFICE
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

Hiermee word gesertifiseer dat
This is to certify that

the documents annexed hereto are true copies of:

Application forms P .1 and P.3, complete specification of Patent
No. 2003/5355 as originally filed in the Republic of South
Africa on 11 July 2003 in the name of MILTON, Trevor John for
an invention entitled: " DISPOSABLE SCALPEL WITH
RETRACTABLE BLADE ".

Geteken te
Signed at

PRETORIA

in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, hierdie
in the Republic of South Africa, this

28th

dag van
day of

August 2003

Registrateur van Patente

DISPOSABLE

APPLICATION FOR PATENT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

(Section 30 (1) - Regulation 22)
(See notes overleaf)

The grant of a patent is hereby requested by the undermentioned applicant on the basis of the present application filed in duplicate

Official application No.	
21 01	2003/5355

(i) Applicant's or agent's reference	
IP 1520	

(ii) Full name(s) of applicant(s)		MILTON, Trevor John
(iii) Address(es) for applicant(s)		19A North Road Dunkeld West 2196

(iv) 54	Title of Invention	DISPOSABLE SCALPEL WITH RETRACTABLE BLADE
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(v)	The applicant claims priority as set out on the accompanying form P2	
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(vi)	This application is for a patent of addition to Patent Application No.	
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21 1	
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(vii)	This application is a fresh application in terms of section 37 and based on Application No.	
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21 1	
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(viii)	This application is accompanied by:	
X	1	A single copy of a provisional or two copies of a complete specification of 10 pages
X	2	Drawings of 3 pages
X	3	Publication particulars and abstract (form P 8 in duplicate)
X	4	A copy of Figure 2 of the drawings (if any) for abstract
X	5	An assignment of invention
	6	Certified priority document(s) (state number)
	7	Translation of the priority document(s)
	8	An assignment of priority rights
X	9	A copy of form P 2 and specification of S.A. Patent Application No.
X	10	A declaration and power of attorney on form P 3
	11	Request for ante-dating on form P 4
	12	Request for classification on form P 9
X	13	Special Power of Attorney

21 01	2002/9334
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(ix) 74	Address for Service: C/O Institute of Inventors, P O BOX 286, SAXONWOLD, 2132	
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Dated this 9th day of July 2003.

Signature: Trevor M. M.

The duplicate will be returned to the applicant's address for service as proof of lodging but is not valid unless endorsed with the official stamp

Received	
REGISTRAR OF PATENTS DESIGNS, TRADE MARKS AND COPYRIGHT	
Official date stamp	
2003 -07- 11	
Registrar of Patents REGISTRATEUR VAN PATENTE, MODELLE, HANDELSMERKE EN OUTEURSREG	

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PATENTS ACT, 1978

Form P 3

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(Section 30 - Regulation 8, 22(1)(c) and 33)

Patent Application Number	Ref	Lodging Date
21 01 2003/5355		22 2003-07-11

Full Name(s) of Applicant(s)
71 MILTON, Trevor John

Full Name(s) of Inventor(s)
72 HOLMAN, Robert Gerard

Earliest Priority Claimed	Country	Number	Date
YES	33 ZA	31	2002/9334 32 18/11/02

NOTE: The country must be indicated by its International Abbreviation - see schedule 4 of the Regulations

Title of Invention
54 DISPOSABLE SCALPEL WITH RETRACTABLE BLADE

* I MILTON, Trevor John

hereby declare that:-

- * 1 I/we am/are the applicant(s) mentioned above;
- ** 2 I/we have been authorized by the applicant(s) to make this declaration and have knowledge of the facts herein of the applicant(s);
- *** 3 The inventor(s) of the abovementioned invention is/are the person(s) named above and the applicant(s) has/have acquired the right to apply by virtue of an assignment from the inventor(s).
- 4 to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, if a patent is granted on the application, there will be no lawful ground for the revocation of the patent
- **** 5 this is a convention application and the earliest application from which priority is claimed as set out above is the first application in a convention country in respect of the invention claimed in any of the claims; and
- 6 the partners and qualified staff of the firm of The Institute of Inventors, patent attorneys, are authorised, jointly and severally, with powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the applicant(s) in this application and to be the address for service of the applicant(s) while the application is pending and after a patent has been granted on the application.

Signed at Johannesburg this 9th day of July 2003.

Trevor M. M.
Signature(s)

(no legalization necessary)

- * In the case of application in the name of a company, partnership or firm, give full names of signatory/signatories, delete paragraph 1, and enter capacity of each signatory in paragraph 2.
- ** If the applicant is a natural person, delete paragraph 2.
- *** If the right to apply is not by virtue of an assignment from the inventor(s), delete "an assignment from the inventor(s)" and give details of acquisition of right.
- **** For non-convention applications, delete paragraph 5.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SOUTH
PATENTS ACT, 1978

Form P 7

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
(Section 30 (1) - Regulation 28)

Official Application Number		
21	1	12003/5355

Lodging Date	
22	2003-07-17

International Classification	
51	A61B

Full Name(s) of Applicant(s)	
71	MILTON, Trevor John

Full Name(s) of Inventor(s)	
72	HOLMAN, Robert Gerard

Title of Invention	
54	DISPOSABLE SCALPEL WITH RETRACTABLE BLADE

DISPOSABLE SCALPEL WITH RETRACTABLE BLADE**5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to a disposable scalpel having a retractable blade and, more particularly, to a disposable scalpel in which movement of the blade relative to a supporting scalpel handle between an extended operative
10 position and a retracted inoperative position is achieved by moving a blade carrier by way of a thumb operable slider attached, generally by way of a slot through the wall of the handle, to the blade carrier.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

15

Disposable scalpels having retractable blades have been proposed and produced in many different forms. The various different forms can, for present purposes, be considered to fall into two different categories; a first being scalpels in which the thumb operable slider projects through a side wall
20 of the scalpel handle, and a second in which the slider projects through a slot in one edge that can be considered to be the top edge of the scalpel handle.

The first type of scalpel that has the slider projecting through a side wall of
25 the handle is considered to suffer from a number of disadvantages, not least of which is that one designed for use by a right-handed person cannot easily be used by a left-handed person and vice versa. United States patent No 6,254,621 describes a scalpel that is typical of this type.

30 The second type of scalpel that has the slider projecting through the top edge of the scalpel handle generally has the disadvantage that the scalpel handle is made in two parts that are subsequently secured together with the blade

carrier inside the handle and the associated slider projecting through a slot in the top edge of the composite handle. Typical of this type of construction are the scalpels described in United States patents 5,330,493; 5,556,409; and 5,571,127. The two-part construction of the handle is considered by
5 applicant to be undesirable for a variety of reasons not least of which is the fact that the handle could possibly come apart.

There are a number of factors that are independent of the type of construction that are considered to be desirable and that are present to
10 greater or lesser extents in existing scalpels, these being factors that contribute to the scalpel blade being held firmly in its operative position; being held positively in its retracted inoperative position; and also a facility aimed at preventing reuse of a scalpel in an effort to avoid so-called sharps injuries to personnel that may come into contact with used medical
15 equipment.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is, accordingly, an object of this invention to provide a scalpel with a
20 retractable blade that has one or more improved features over the prior art scalpels of which applicant is aware.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 In accordance with this invention there is provided a scalpel having a handle with a longitudinally extending cavity therein, a blade carrier within the cavity and movable longitudinally relative to the handle between an operative position in which a blade carried thereby is exposed for use at an open end of the cavity and an inoperative position in which a blade carried thereby is
30 retracted within the cavity in the handle, and a manually operable slider associated with the blade carrier and passing through a slot in a wall of the handle at an edge thereof, herein termed the top edge; the scalpel being

characterized in that the handle is moulded as a single piece moulding with an integral bridge defining an endless open end to the cavity through which the blade carrier may be introduced into the cavity and in that the slider is formed as a separate part that snap fits to the blade carrier after introduction
5 through the open end of the cavity to form a blade carrier and slider assembly.

Further features of the invention provide for the slider and one or other longitudinally extending edge of the slot to be provided with co-operating
10 tooth and notch formations that cooperate to releasably hold the blade carrier and slider assembly in "click-stop" manner in the operative and inoperative positions; for the blade carrier and slider assembly to have an innermost, terminal locked position defined by co-operating formations on the slider and edges of the slot, such terminal locked position being one in which the blade
15 carrier is located inwards of the normal inoperative position and from which it is substantially impossible to unlock the blade carrier, at least for practical purposes; for a plurality of notches to be associated with both the operative and inoperative positions of the blade carrier and slider assembly so that a series of at least two and optionally three or more "click-stops" are
20 associated with each of the operative and inoperative positions such that a person operating the scalpel will know exactly, by feel, and optionally also hearing, the position of the blade carrier in the handle; and for the tooth and notch formations to be adapted such that an audible "click" is created when a tooth engages a notch.

25

A further feature of the invention provides for the slider to have a pair of transverse tongues with oppositely directed latch formations at their inner ends for cooperating with cooperant transverse sockets formed in the blade carrier. The tongues are preferably coplanar and spaced apart in the
30 longitudinal direction of the slider.

Preferably, the blade carrier is configured such that it can accept a plurality of different style blades, thereby rendering it more versatile than prior art scalpels.

- 5 In order that the invention may be more fully understood one embodiment thereof will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 In the drawings:-

Figure 1 is an exploded perspective view from the side of a scalpel according to the invention but offset such that the top edge of the handle is somewhat visible;

15

Figure 2 is a similar view, but more from the top, and showing the scalpel partly assembled;

Figure 3 is a cross-section taken through the handle of the scalpel;

20

Figure 4 is an inverted plan view of the slider showing the tooth and slide block formations formed integral therewith;

Figure 5 is a detail of the slider in its exploded position illustrated in Figure 2;

25

Figure 6 is a detail, partly broken away, and showing the cooperation between tooth and notch formations of the slot and slider with the latter in the operative position;

30

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the scalpel from one side of the top thereof showing the slider partly broken away in its fully locked position;

5 Figure 8 is a view similar to Figure 6 showing the cooperation between tooth and notch formations of the slot and slider with the latter in the inoperative position; and,

10 Figure 9 is a detail similar to Figure 8 but showing the tooth and notch formations in the final locked position of the slider relative to the scalpel handle (in the position illustrated in Figure 7).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION WITH REFERENCE TO THE DRAWINGS

15

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawings, a scalpel comprises a single piece injection moulded plastics handle (1), a blade carrier (2) slidable longitudinally in a longitudinal cavity (3) within the plastics handle, a separately moulded, manually operable slider (4) that combines
20 with the blade carrier to form a blade carrier assembly in the assembled condition, and, for use, a scalpel blade (5) that is fitted to the blade carrier.

The handle has a longitudinally extending slot (6) extending along its operatively top edge (7) from a forward end (8) of the handle towards a rear
25 end (9) thereof and communicating with the cavity inside. An integral bridge (10) at the front end of the top edge forms an endless open end (11) to the cavity and provides dimensional stability to this end for firmly holding the blade carrier in its operative position.

30 The blade carrier is elongate and has a longitudinally extending ridge (12) that is received in a cooperating groove (13) (see Figure 3) on one side wall of the cavity. The blade carrier is configured to slide longitudinally within the

cavity and to receive and support a variety of different scalpel blade types. The blade carrier is clearly shaped, in cross-section, to be introduced through the open end (11) to the cavity.

- 5 The blade carrier also has a pair of transverse sockets (14) being configured to receive a pair of transverse tongues (15) extending from the slider, the tongues each having a catch formation (16) at its free end that locks onto the blade carrier in irreversible manner when the tongues are introduced into the sockets with the blade carrier in the cavity. Once this is being achieved, the
- 10 blade carrier is held captive within the cavity and can be slid in and out by manually operating the slider, generally by a person holding the scalpel handle and utilizing the thumb to achieve this.

- The slider has, on its upper surface, a longitudinally extending ridge (17) that
- 15 cooperates with the slot to align the slider correctly relative to it. Extending laterally outwards from the ridge at each end thereof is an integral miniature slide block (18) that cooperate with the one edge of the slot and, on the other side of the ridge, are a forward tooth (19) positioned inwards from the nearer end of the ridge and a rearward tooth (20) located opposite the rear slide
- 20 block (18).

- The teeth (19) and (20) are substantially identical and are of trapezoidal or triangular shape to provide inclined faces (21) to cooperate with the inclined edges (22) to notches (23) formed in the associated edge of the slot at both
- 25 the front and rear ends thereof. In the case of both the front and rear ends of the slot there are provided a series of four juxtaposed notches for cooperation with the forward tooth (19) and rearward tooth (20) respectively when the slider is at the forward or rear ends of the slot.

- 30 The arrangement is such that as the slider is moved towards either of the operative or inoperative positions the respective tooth will engage sequentially with the notches of the series of four and will form a "click-stop"

in each position. A person operating the slider will be able to feel these sequential "click-stops" and, with appropriate design, also hear them. It will thus be immediately apparent as to the exact location of the blade relative to the handle.

5

In addition to the above, the rear end of the slot is also provided with a ramp (24) on the side opposite the notches, the ramp communicating with a neck (25) that in turn communicates with a rectangular terminal aperture (26) forming the inner end of the slot. This arrangement is such that when additional force is applied to the slider in a direction towards the rear end of the handle, the slide block (18) and opposite rear tooth (20) are forced together through the neck and into the aperture in an irreversible manner so that the slider is permanently locked in the retracted position. This final position is illustrated clearly in Figure 9.

15

It will be understood that, in use, the scalpel may be stored and transported with the blade carrier and associated blade in a retracted position with the slider held in one of the "click-stop" retracted positions. This position may also be used during the conduct of operations in between times when the scalpel is required for use. As and when required, the blade carrier can be moved to present the scalpel blade in its operative position with the blade carrier being arrested in a forward "click-stop" position. The position of the blade relative to the handle can be sensed extremely easily by a person using the scalpel. It is also to be noted that the "click-stop" positions can be used for the purpose of depth control

25

Once the scalpel has served its purpose and is to be disposed of, the slider is moved to its final locked position so that, to all intents and purposes, it is impossible to use the scalpel again. The scalpel blade is thus held in an extremely safe locked inoperative position for disposal, thereby avoiding the possibility of any so-called sharps injuries.

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It will be understood that numerous variations may be made to the embodiment of the invention described above without departing from the scope hereof.

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CLAIMS:

1. A scalpel having a handle with a longitudinally extending cavity therein, a blade carrier within the cavity and movable longitudinally relative to the handle between an operative position in which a blade carried thereby is exposed for use at an open end of the cavity and an inoperative position in which a blade carried thereby is retracted within the cavity in the handle, and a manually operable slider associated with the blade carrier and passing through a slot in a wall of the handle at an edge thereof, herein termed the top edge; the scalpel being characterized in that the handle is moulded as a single piece moulding with an integral bridge defining an endless open end to the cavity through which the blade carrier may be introduced into the cavity and in that the slider is formed as a separate part that snap fits to the blade carrier after introduction through the open end of the cavity to form a blade carrier and slider assembly.
5
10
15
2. A scalpel as claimed in claim 1 in which the slider and at least one longitudinally extending edge of the slot are provided with co-operating tooth and notch formations that cooperate to releasably hold the blade carrier and slider assembly in "click-stop" manner in the operative and inoperative positions.
20
3. A scalpel as claimed in either one of claims 1 or 2 in which for the blade carrier and slider assembly have an innermost, terminal locked position defined by co-operating formations on the slider and edges of the slot, such terminal locked position being one in which the blade carrier is located inwards of the normal inoperative position and from which it is substantially impossible to unlock the blade carrier, at least for practical purposes.
25
30

4. A scalpel as claimed in claim 2 in which a plurality of notches are associated with both the operative and inoperative positions of the blade carrier and slider assembly so that a series of at least two, and optionally three or more "click-stops" are associated with each of the operative and inoperative positions.
5. A scalpel as claimed in either one of claims 2 or 4 in which the "click-stops" are configured to create an audible sound upon engagement of a tooth with a notch.
6. A scalpel as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the slider has a pair of transverse tongues with oppositely directed catch formations at their inner ends for cooperating with cooperant transverse sockets formed in the blade carrier.
7. A scalpel as claimed in claim 6 in which the tongues are coplanar and spaced apart in the longitudinal direction of the slider.
8. A scalpel as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the blade carrier is configured such that it can accept a plurality of different style blades.
9. A scalpel substantially as herein described and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 9th day of July 2003



FIG 1

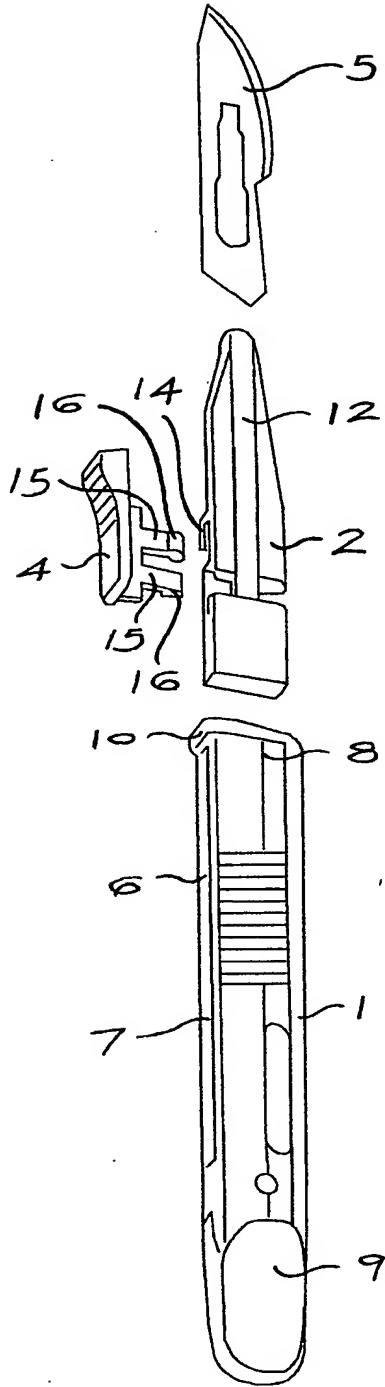
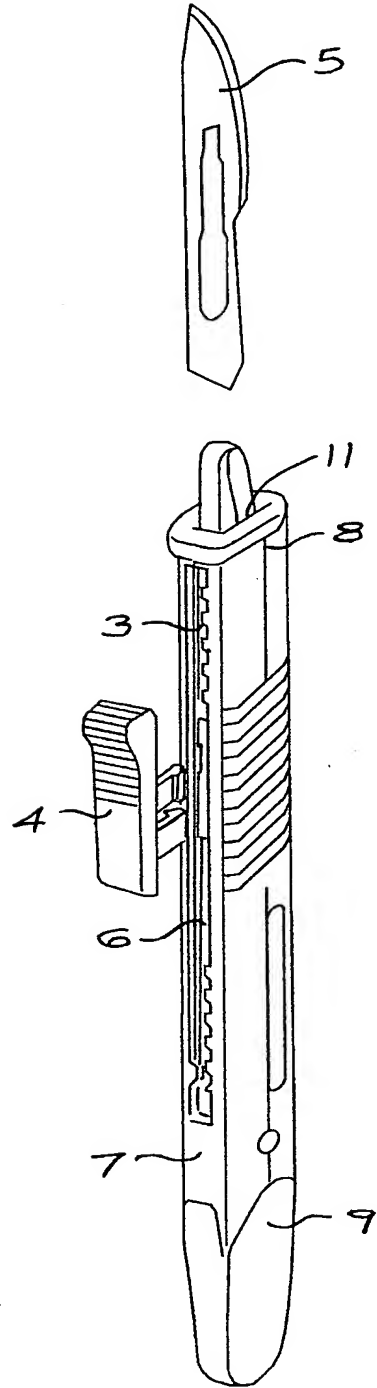
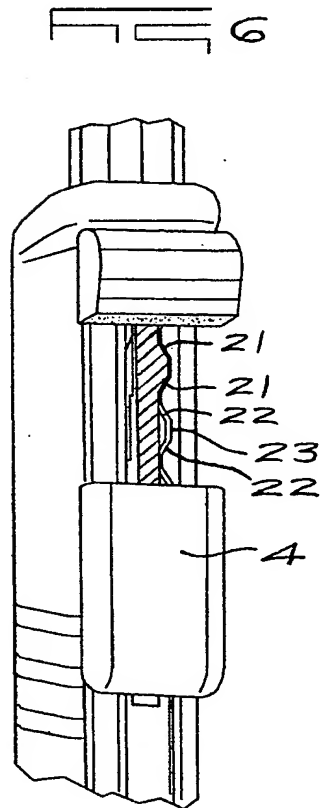
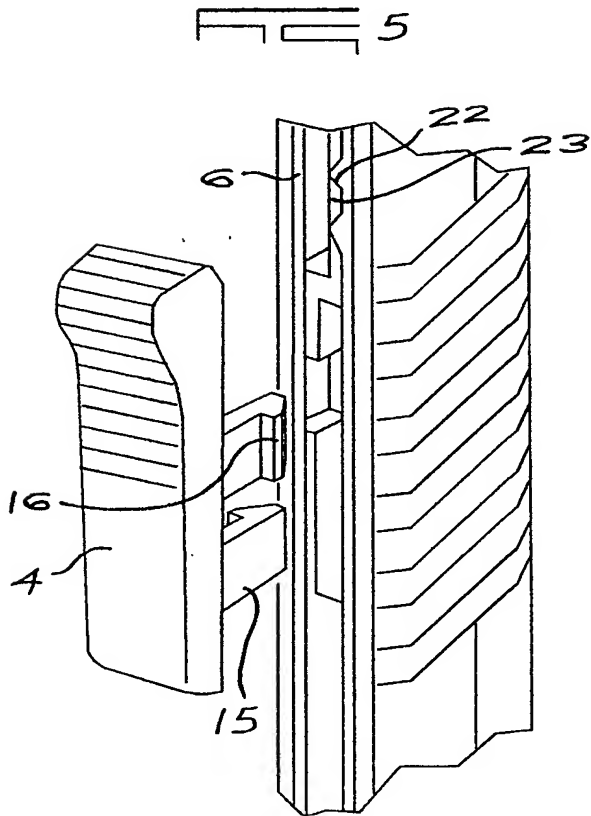
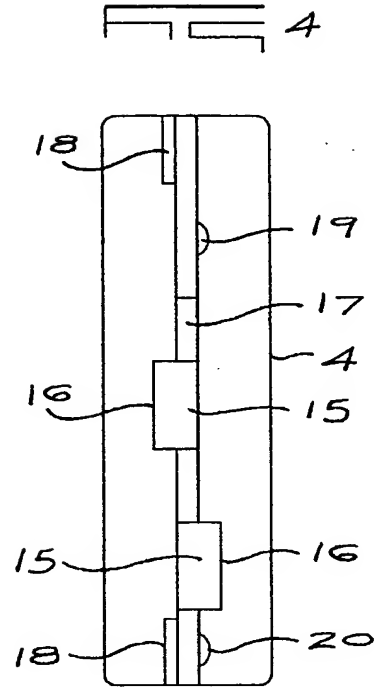
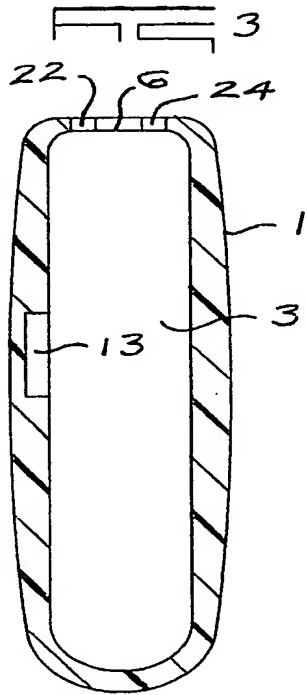


FIG 2



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FIG 7

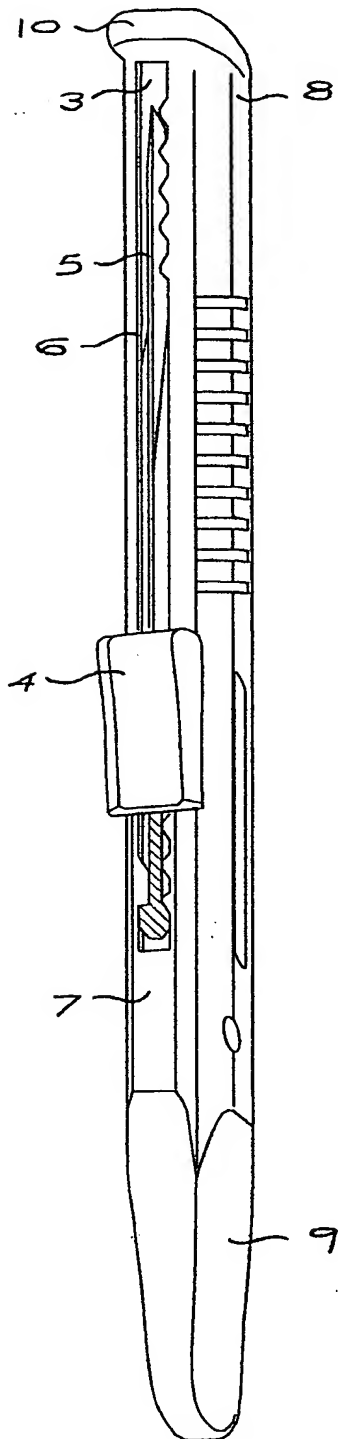


FIG 8

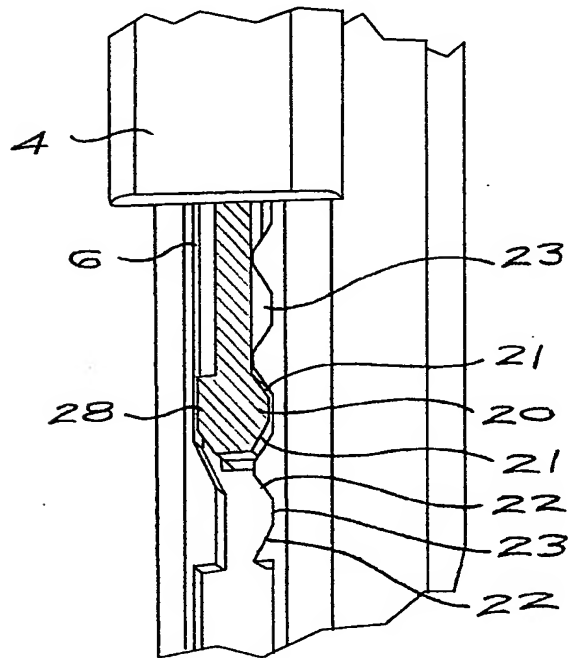
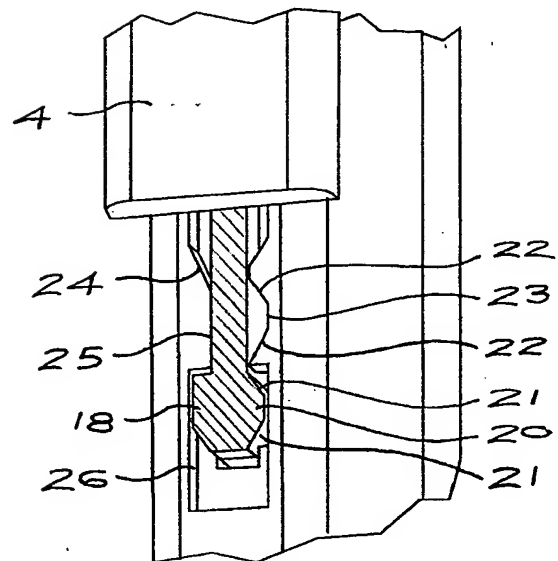


FIG 9



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Sertifikaat

PATENTKANTOOR

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL
EN NYWERHEID



REPUBLIC VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Certificate

PATENT OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

Hiermee word gesertifiseer dat
This is to certify that

the documents annexed hereto are true copies of:

Application forms P.1 and P.2, provisional specification and
drawings of South African Patent Application No. 2002/9334
as originally filed in the Republic of South Africa on 18
November 2002 in the name of HOLMAN ROBERT GERARD
for an invention entitled: "MEDI-SAFE SCALPEL".

Geteken te
Signed at

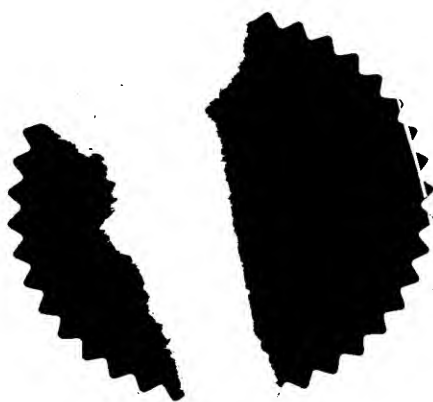
PRETORIA

in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, hierdie
in the Republic of South Africa, this

26th

dag van
day of

August 2003



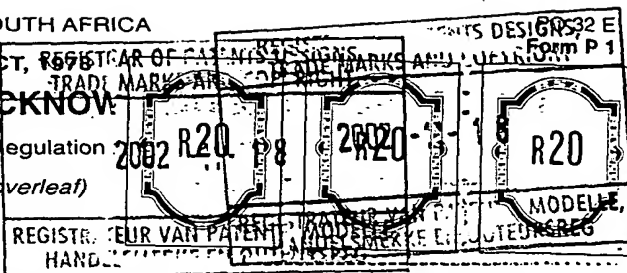
Registrateur van Patente

Signature
DIDISTES

APPLICATION FOR A PATENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

[Section 30 (1)—Regulation 2002 R20-18]

(See notes overleaf)



The grant of a patent is hereby requested by the undermentioned applicant on the basis of the present application filed in duplicate.

Official Application No.
21 01 **2002/9334**

(i)
Applicant's or agent's reference

(ii)
71 Full name(s) of applicant(s)

HOLMAN ROBERT GERARD

(iii)
Address(es) of applicant(s)

411 MAIN AVE FERNDALE
RANDBURG

(iv)
54 Title of invention **MEDI-SAFE SCALPEL**

(v)
The applicant claims priority as set out on the accompanying form P 2.

(vi)
This application is for a patent of addition to Patent Application No.
21 01

(vii)
This application is a fresh application in terms of section 37 and based on Application No.
21 01

(viii)
This application is accompanied by:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.	A single copy of a provisional or two copies of a complete specification of..... 2pages.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.	Drawings of..... 5sheets.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.	Publication particulars and abstract (form P 8 in duplicate).
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.	A copy of Figure.....of drawings (if any) for the abstract.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.	An assignment of invention.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6.	Certified priority document(s) (state number).
<input type="checkbox"/>	7.	Translation of the priority document(s).
<input type="checkbox"/>	8.	An assignment of priority rights.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9.	A copy of the form P 2 and the specification of S.A. Patent Application No. 21 01
<input type="checkbox"/>	10.	A declaration and Power of Attorney on form P 3.
<input type="checkbox"/>	11.	Request for ante-dating on form P 4.
<input type="checkbox"/>	12.	Request for classification on form P 9.
<input type="checkbox"/>	13.	

(ix)
74 Address for service: **P.O. Box 2856 RANDBURG 2125**

Dated this **18th** day of **November** 20 **02**

[Signature]
Signature of applicant(s) or agent

The duplicate will be returned to the applicant's address for service as proof of lodging but is not valid unless endorsed with official stamp.

REGISTRAR OF PATENTS
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Official stamp 18
REGISTRAR VAN PATENTE, MODELLE,
HANDELS
REGISTRAR of Patents

(To be lodged in duplicate)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA				PATENTS ACT, 1978			
REGISTER OF PATENTS							
Official application No.		Lodging date: Provisional			Acceptance date		
21	2002/9334		22			47	
International classification		Lodging date: Complete			Granted date		
51			23				
Full name(s) of applicant(s)/Patentee(s):							
71	HOLMAN ROBERT GERARD						
Applicants substituted:						Date registered	
71							
Assignee(s):						Date registered	
71							
Full name(s) of inventor(s):							
72	HOLMAN ROBERT GERARD						
Priority claimed		Country		Number		Date	
	33		31		32		
	33		31		32		
	33		31		32		
Title of invention:							
54	MEDI - SAFE SCALPEL						
Address of applicant(s)/Patentee(s):							
411 MAIN AVE FERNDALE RANDBURG							
Address for service							
74	P.O. BOX 2256 RANDBURG 2125						
Patent of addition No.				Date of any change			
61							
Fresh application based on				Date of any change			

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PATENTS ACT, 1978

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

(Section 30(1) - Regulation 27)

Official Application No.			Lodging Date
21	01	2002/9334	22

Full name(s) of applicant(s)
71 HOLMAN ROBERT GERARD

Full name(s) of inventors(s)
72 HOLMAN ROBERT GERARD

Title of invention
54 MEDI - SAFE SCALPEL

Application for a Provisional Patent Number for a Disposable Medi-Safe Scalpel

Medi-safe Scalpel is a blade holder with safety features. It consists of the following components: Handle, Slide Latch, Blade Holder and a Blade. As per sketch 1.

Sketch 2

Shows the assembly sequence.

1. Slide the blade holder into the front end of the handle until the stop in the blade holder is flush with the front end of the handle.
2. Clip slide latch into blade holder by pressing clip ends through slots in handle as shown in Detail A. Once this is clipped in it cannot be removed as clip ends face in opposite directions.
3. The blade holder allows the blades to be clipped on, which gives the flexibility of using different quality blades as well as different sized blades on the same holder.

Sketch 3

Shows the Scalpel in the ready to use position.

1. Shows the slide catch stops against the handle end.
2. Shows the slide latch.
3. Shows ratchet tooth in slide latch engages with corresponding ratchet groove in the handle.
4. Shows the handle

Sketch 4

Shows the Scalpel in closed safe position. Move slide latch backward until it becomes disengaged from the handle ratchet. The Scalpel is now in the safe position. The slide latch can be returned to the ready for use position by moving it forward under minor resistance from the ratchet tooth against the handle ratchet.

Detail A.

1. Show slide latch
2. Show handle
3. Ratchet tooth in end position
4. Ratchet handle

Sketch 5.

Scalpel in locked disposable position.

From closed safe position move slide latch a further short distance backwards until the resistance is overcome. The Scalpel is now in the "locked for disposable" position. The slide latch cannot move forward or backward.

Detail A.

1. Shows slide latch
2. Shows handle
3. Lock tooth on handle drops into local cavity in slide latch.

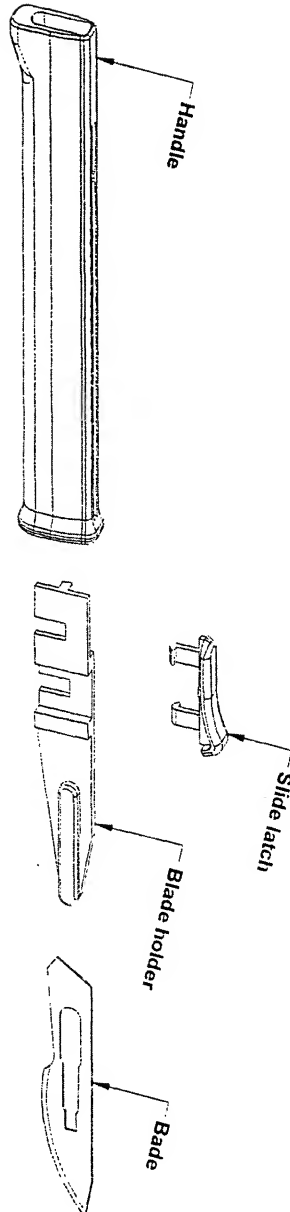


The Medi-Safe Scalpel's important features are:

1. The slide latch on top of the Scalpel for constant control by the user of the product as well as ease of moving it from the "ready for use" position to the "close safe" position.
2. The opening on the handle on top gives total safety to the blade in the "closed safe" position.
3. The slotted blade holder allows the use of different blades either quality or size.
4. The "locked for disposal" position for complete safety when the Scalpel is ready to be disposed of.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. C.', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

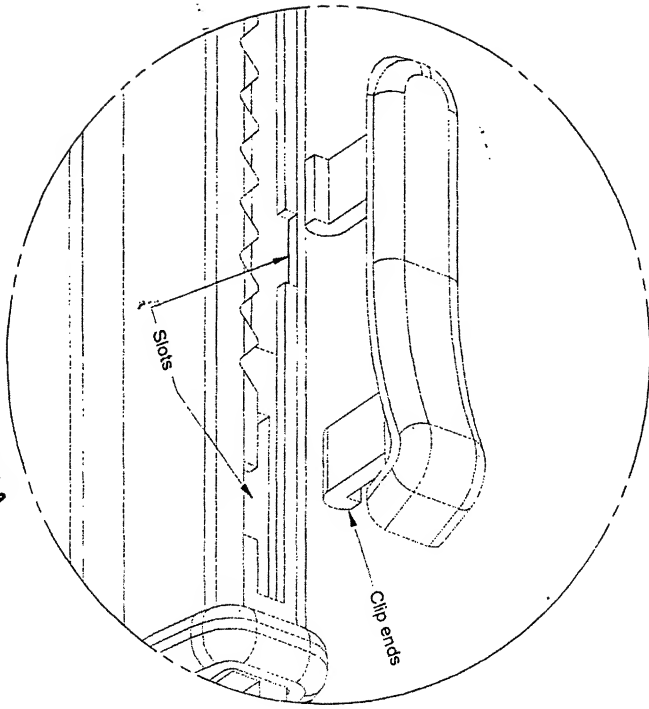
32002/9334



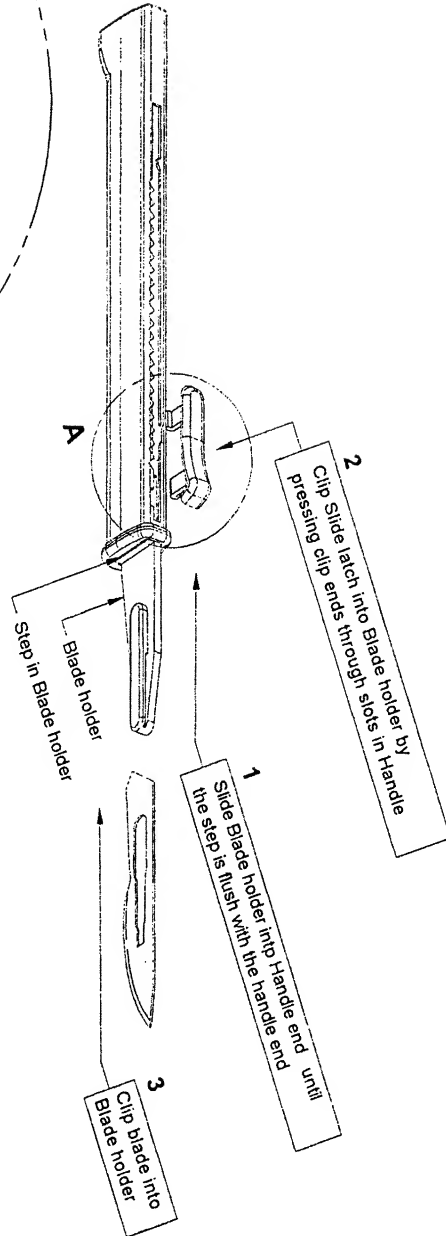
Sketch 1
Named parts of assembly

[Signature]

Detail A

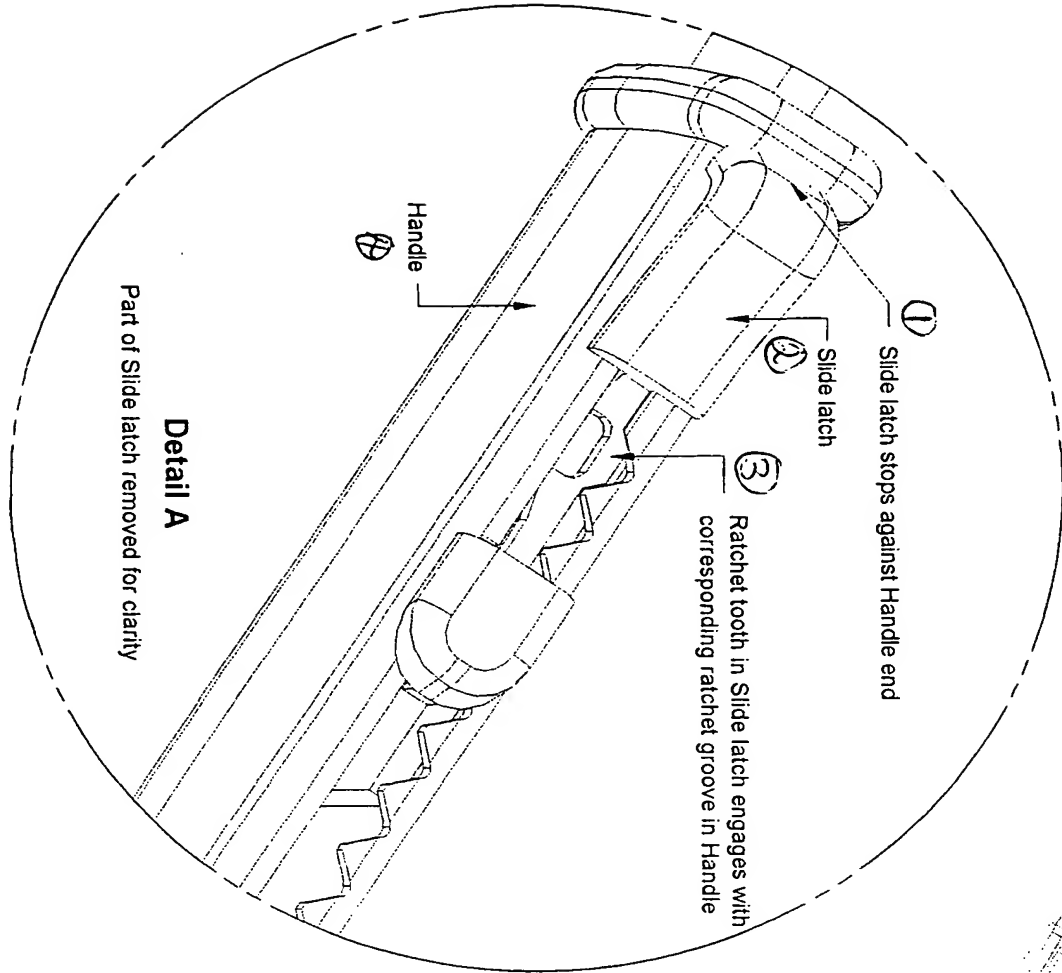
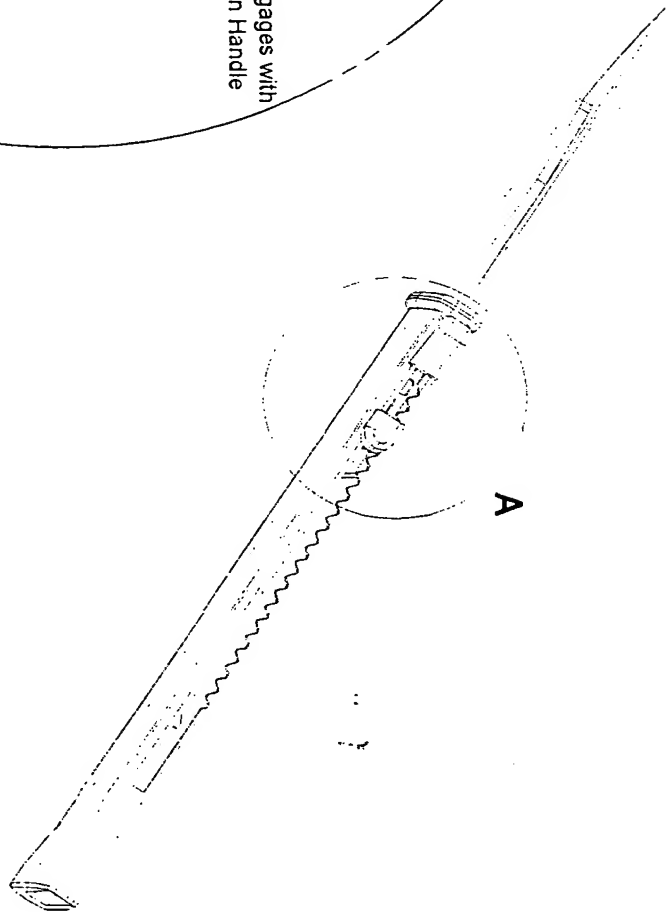


Sketch 2
Assembly sequence



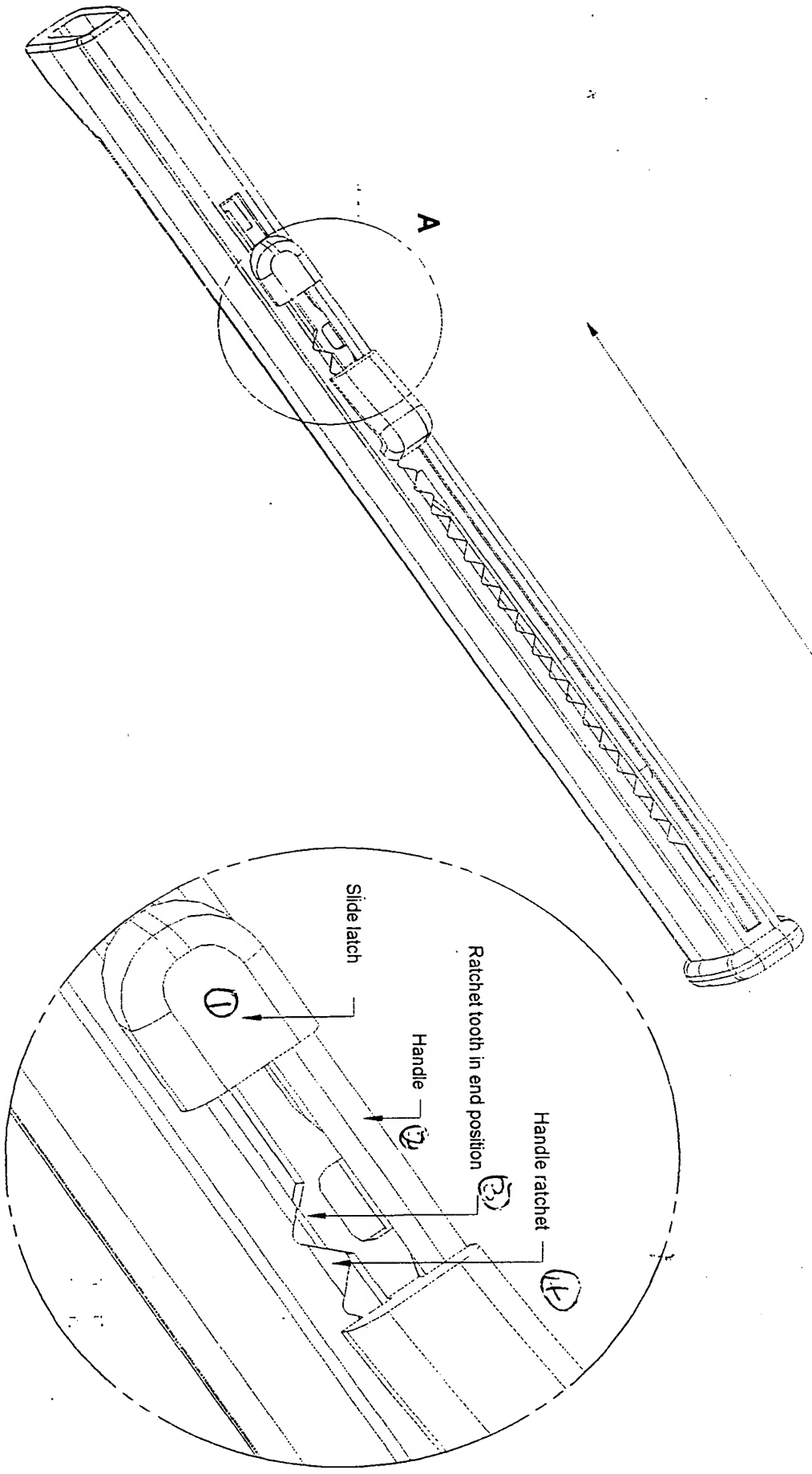
[Handwritten signature]

Handwritten signature



Sketch 3
Scalpel in 'Ready for use' position

Move slide latch backwards until it becomes disengaged from the Handle ratchet - The scalpel is now in the safe position. The Slide latch can be returned to the 'ready for use' position by moving it forward under minor resistance from the Ratchet tooth against the Handle ratchet

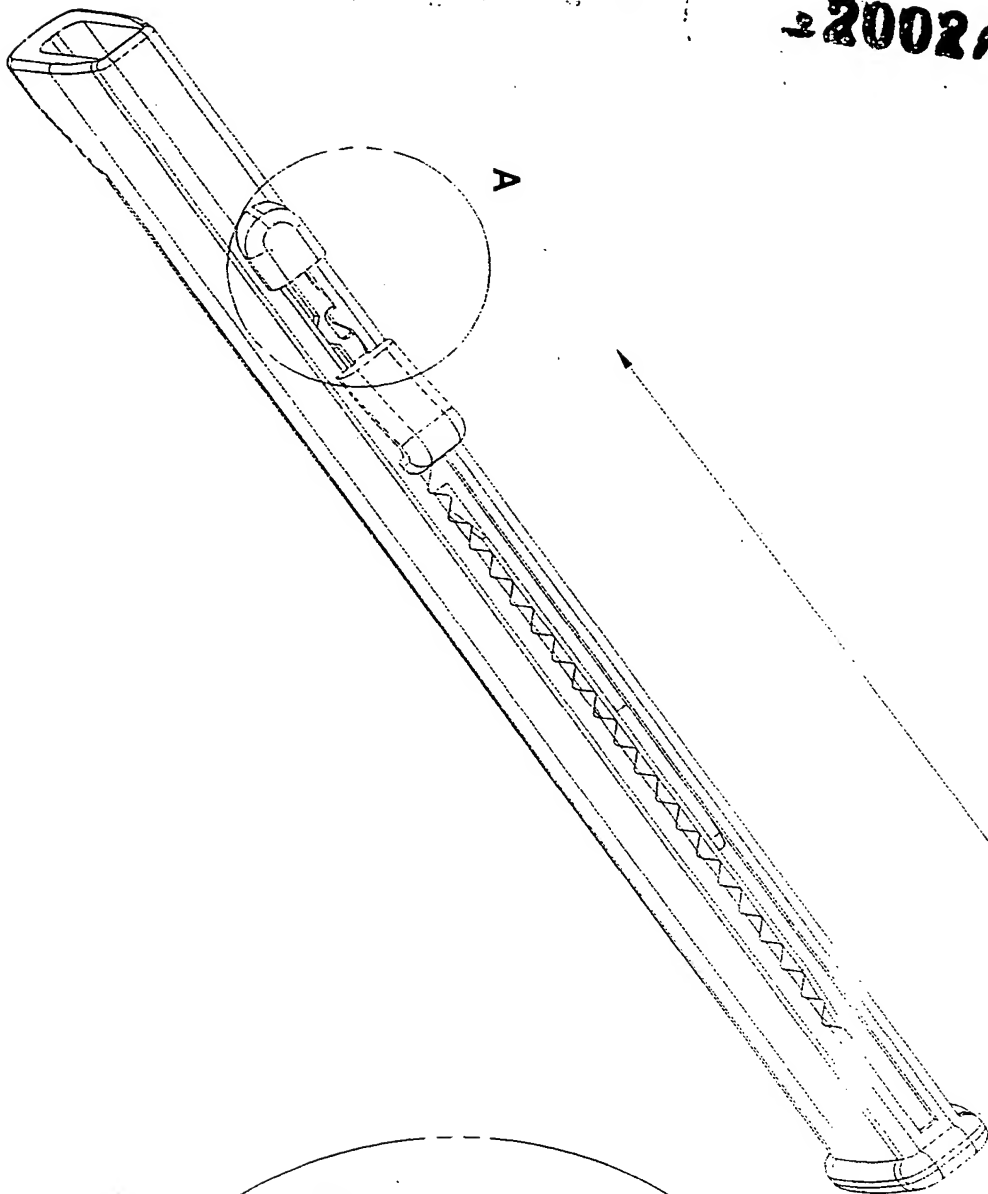


Detail A

Part of Slide latch removed for clarity

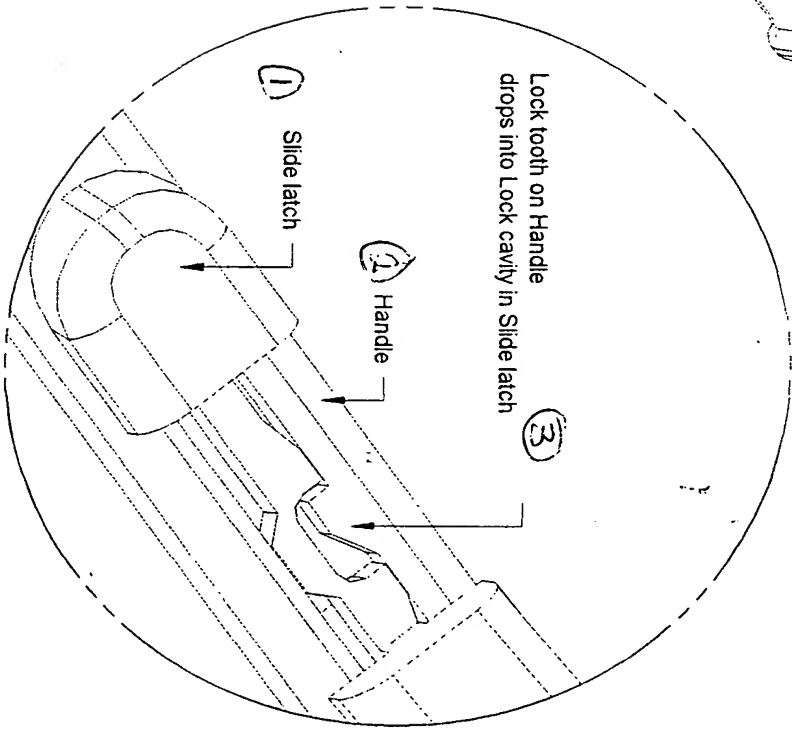
Sketch 4
Scalpel in 'closed-safe' position

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From closed safe position move Slide latch a further small distance backwards until a resistance is overcome. The Scalpel is now in the 'locked-for disposal' position. The Slide latch cannot move forwards or backwards

Handwritten signature



Part of Slide latch removed for clarity

Detail A

Sketch 5
Scalpel in 'locked-for disposal' position